

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293579

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 293579 SENT ACTION LONDON MANILA
SINGAPORE USIA WASHDC CINCPAC MAC SCOTT AFB INFO PORT LOUIS
CSAF WASHDC CNO WASHDC CINCPACFLT CINCUSNAVEUR 02 DEC 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293579

FOL TEL SENT ACTION LONDON MANILA SINGAPOE USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC MAC SCOTT AFB INFO CSAF WASHDC CNO WASHDC CINCPACFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR FROM SECSTATE DTD 02 DEC 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293579

MILITARY ADDEES ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, SOPN, XO, UK

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA MEDIA VISIT

JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. A MEDIA VISIT TO DIEGO GARCIA HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDER-
ATION BY STATE AND DEFENSE. THE THRUST OF THIS VISIT IS TO
PROVIDE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AN OPPORTUNITY PERSONALLY TO
VIEW THE ISLAND AND THE VARIOUS FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PRO-
JECTS UNDERWAY. UK OFFICIALS AT THE OCTOBER US-UK INDIAN
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OCEAN TALKS CONCURRED IN THE REQUIREMENT FOR A VISIT AND

PARTICIPATED IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OF DETAILS.

2. THE VISIT CONCEPT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

A. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE FLOWN ON A ROUTINE MAC CHANNEL C-141 FLIGHT. APPROXIMATELY 35 SEATS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEDIA. THE COST OF THE SEATS WILL BE REIMBURSED TO THE US GOVERNMENT BY THE USING AGENCY/INDIVIDUAL. EST. COST 492 DOLLARS PER SEAT ROUND-TRIP TO/FROM CLARK AB.

B. SUBJECT TO HOST GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VISIT MAY BOARD THE AIRCRAFT IN THE PHILIPPINES OR IN SINGAPORE.

C. THE PROPOSED ITINERARY CALLS FOR THE AIRCRAFT TO: FLY FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO SINGAPORE THE AFTERNOON OF 7 JANUARY AND REMAIN OVER NIGHT; DEPART SINGAPORE EARLY ON 8 JANUARY FOR DIEGO GARCIA, WHERE GROUND TIME WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 1000 TO 1600 LOCAL, AND RETURN TO SINGAPORE; CONTINUE TO THE PHILIPPINES TO COMPLETE THE MISSION ON 9 JANUARY. (FYI: FLYING TIME PHILIPPINES TO SINGAPORE IS APPROXIMATELY 3:25; SINGAPORE TO DIEGO GARCIA IS APPROXIMATELY 4:20).

D. THE UK ISLAND COMMANDER WILL HOST THE VISIT. BOTH UK AND US OFFICIALS WILL BRIEF THE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND TIME WILL BE ALLOTTED FOR PHOTO AND INTERVIEW ACTIVITIES.

E. DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, ONLY REPRESENTATIVES OF US AND UK MEDIA WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS FLIGHT. SELECTION OF MEDIA AGENCIES/INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE UK AND DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE FOR THE US. NAMES OF THOSE TO PARTICIPATE WILL BE FURNISHED AT A LATER DATE.

F. THE UK AND THE US WILL PROVIDE PRESS/PAO/USIA OFFICERS TO ESCORT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ON THIS FLIGHT.

2. TO FACILITATE PLANNING FOR THIS PROJECT, REQUEST EX-CONFIDENTIAL

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PEDITE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. FOR MANILA: REQUEST YOU DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF OPERATING THIS SPECIAL FLIGHT FROM CLARK AB IN VIEW OF THE IMMIGRATION LAW RESTRICTIONS. IF CLARK AB IS NOT AN OPTION FOR ANY REASON, DOES THE USE OF MANILA INTERNATIONAL PRESENT ANY PROBLEMS?

B. FOR SINGAPORE: REQUEST YOU DETERMINE ACCEPTABILITY OF USING SINGAPORE AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 1C ABOVE AND SEEK HOST GOVERNMENT APPROVAL IF THE PROPOSAL APPEARS ACCEPTABLE. IF JANUARY TIME-FRAME INADVISABLE DUE SINGAPORE ELECTIONS AND TIMING OF BILATERAL SECURITY MATTERS, WHAT TIMING WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE FROM GOS VIEWPOINT?

C. FOR CINCPAC: FURNISH PRESS BROCHURE, ISLAND ITINERARY AND CURRENT STILL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ISLAND. DESIGNATE A MILITARY PUBLIC-AFFAIRS OFFICER TO SERVE AS PROJECT OFFICER FOR THE VISIT TO DIEGO GARCIA.

D. FOR LONDON: REQUEST YOU SEEK FCO APPROVAL OF ABOVE PLAN. FYI: UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS REVIEWED THIS

MESSAGE. END FYI. UK OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE REQUIRED TO REIMBURSE USG FOR C-141 TRAVEL. FURTHER REQUEST OBTAIN FCO DESIRES AS TO NUMBER OF SEATS FOR UK MEDIA.

E. FOR SAFOI/MAC: TAKE NECESSARY PRELIMINARY ACTIONS TO FURNISH AIRLIFT SUPPORT AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 1C. DECONTROL JANUARY 7, 1977. ROBINSON
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UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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